

A BREACH in *Jerusalem's* Walls,
DEPLORED :

A
S E R M O N
P R E A C H ' D A T

OXFORD, *May* 31st. 1761.

On the Death of the

Rev. Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL :

Late Pastor of the Church of CHRIST there.

Who departed this Life on the 25th of the
same Month, in the 71st Year of his Age,
and 41st of his Ministry.

And now published at the Desire of many of the Hearers.

By *WILLIAM PHIPS*, A.M.

Pastor of the Church in DOUGLASS.

Isai. III. 1, 2. — *The Lord — doth take away — the
Prophet, and the Prudent, and the Ancient.* —

Ezek. XXII. 30. — *I sought for a Man — that should
make up the Hedge, and stand in the Gap.* —

“ Heav'n was impatient of our Crimes,

“ And sent his Minister of Death,

“ To scourge the bold Rebellion of the Times,

“ And to demand our Prophet's Breath.”

Dr. WATTS's Hor. Lyric.

*Palida Mors aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas Regumque
Turret,*

HORACE.

BOSTON, NEW-ENGLAND :

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A BREACH
In *Jerusalem's* Walls, deplored.

LAM. II. 13.

WHAT Thing shall I take to witness for Thee? What Thing shall I liken to Thee, O Daughter of *Jerusalem*? What shall I equal to Thee, that I may comfort Thee, O Virgin Daughter of *Zion*? For thy Breach is great like the Sea: Who can heal Thee?

THIS Book is a Mourning-Piece, or Sermon of Commiseration, written by the Prophet *Jeremiah*, upon the gloomy Scenes of *Israel's* deplorable Captivity in *Babylon*: In which the Sins and Sorrows of *Jerusalem* are confess'd and bewailed before God, with ardent Supplications for his gracious Pity, Pardon, and Deliverance; and with some Exhortations to, and Resolutions of, Reformation, interspersed.

IN

IN this Chapter several of the greatest and most affecting Instances of *Zion's* Distress, are particularly indicated and condoled. The Account of which—see for yourselves.—And lo, in the Midst of these striking Rehearsals, he bursts forth in the Words of our Text,—and in the Strains of a devout *Pathos*, thus he speaks, — “What Thing shall I take to witness for thee? What Thing shall I liken to thee, O Daughter of *Jerusalem*? What shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O Virgin-Daughter of *Zion*? q. d. What Case is like thine? or to what shall I compare it? or, what Metaphors shall I borrow aptly to describe thy Sorrow, or sooth thy Grief? — He adds, — “For thy *Breach* (alluding it seems to an extensive Gap made in the Walls of a City by the Batterings of an Enemy)—is great, like the Sea, i. e. wide and spreading like the Ocean,—who can heal thee?—Can a Man do it,—or is thine Help to be found in an Arm of Flesh?”

BUT the Prophet here never means, surely, to preach the dark Doctrine of Despair, or to intimate as if *Jerusalem* must finally despond of Help from God, forlorn and deplorable

plorable as her Case is: — Nay, but rather to shew and teach her that to *Him* she must seek and repair, or else—expect to perish in her Sore ; — she has destroyed herself, but in God is her Help. — Yea, this the infinite Power and Mercy of God (in the Way of Faith and Repentance) sought and rely'd on, may be, and will be, the blessed and effectual Relief of any Person or People in the sorest Distresses that can overtake, or betide them in this Life. “ God wounds and he heals ; he kills, and makes alive, — he maketh sore, and bindeth up, — his Arm is infinite, — and he delighteth in Mercy, — and he is a very present Help in Trouble, to all — who sincerely seek, and wait for him, — a strong Hold in the Day of Trouble, — and he knoweth them that trust in him. — Lord, to whom shall we go ? Thou hast the Words of Eternal Life.”

BUT, that we may observe some Order of Method, in discoursing the Subject, I shall say,

I. GOD, in his holy Providence, sometimes makes such a sore Breach upon a Person or People as Man cannot heal ; or calls them
them

them to endure such Troubles as no mortal Hand can remove.

But

II. HE (God) can afford Help effectual in the greatest Extremity, or when human Help, or the Help of Man (in the ordinary Way and Means) fails us, and seems most ineffectual for us.

To touch upon each of these ; for I design all possible Brevity, especially in the Work of Illustration.

I. GOD, in his holy Providence, sometimes makes such a fore Breach upon a Person or People, as Man cannot heal; or calls them to endure such Troubles as no mortal Hand can remove, i. e. such at least very often as cannot be removed by Man, in the ordinary Way.

WE need not (surely) multiply Words for the Proof of so plain a Point as this.—
 'Tis God orders out to Men, and sends upon them all penal Evils, properly such :
 —*Affliction cometh not forth of the Dust, nor does Trouble spring out of the Ground: but

* Job 5. 6.

like

† Psalm 39. 11.

§ Amos 3. 6.

like Things might be mentioned here would the Time allow it,—but these are sufficient.

Now such Troubles as these are peculiarly sore,—they make a Breach like the Sea, quickly upon the Comfort and Strength of a Person or People: Human Help soon fails in these Cases. — Indeed, in any Trouble, Creatures can't help us, without God, or if he be against us. — And again, God may, and ordinarily does, make use of Creatures some Way as Instruments, to help and comfort us, in such Cases as we have mention'd: But in these, and such-like, the Circumstances are often so that no Prospect is left us of obtaining Help in the ordinary Way, and such that the wisest and best of our Friends know not what to do for us, nor is it in their Power to relieve us in a natural and common Method, or as they help us in lesser Difficulties, but we need more special and extraordinary Interpositions of Providence, and more immediate and abundant Supplies and Supports of Divine Grace in such Cases.—Very specially a Person needs these,—under Bereavements by the Deaths of dear and useful Friends, under sore Pains, and Sicknes, extreme Dangers, &c.—Again, A People need extraordinary Influences, Supports

ports and Displays of God's Providence and Grace, to relieve or comfort them under the Burdens and Desolations of Wars, or Straits of Captivity or Famine, or Scarcity, or the like ;—and very eminently they need such Influences when God takes away from them principal Men, — most faithful and useful Leaders, Rulers, Guides, or Officers, in the Church, or State ; for such as these, the most faithful and useful are very scarce and rare—and few of them are to be found, in the World ;—more especially in very profligate and careless Days and Times : Yes, and this Truth, and the solemn and pious Consideration of it makes good and wise Men cry out to God for Help, in such a Case, — knowing there must be the special Influence and Display of his Grace and good Providence, in order to repair such Breaches as are made by the Removal of of Talents, Diligence, Integrity and Faithfulness ; and that Men without this can't help us ; as the Psalmist, *Help, Lord, for the godly Man ceaseth ; for the Faithful fail from among the Children of Men.* * Moses also — † *Let the Lord, the God of the Spirits of all Flesh, set a Man over the Congregation,*
B2 &c,

* Psalm 12. 1. † Numb. 27. 16, 17.

&c. — Thus in such Troubles as we have mentioned, and in the last very specially, Men can't relieve us, or repair our Breaches without the peculiar Interpositions of the Divine Favour and good Providence ;—But no more here. I proceed to say,

II^dly. GOD can afford Help, (effectual) in the greatest Extremity ; or when human Help, at least in the ordinary Way and Means, fails us, and seems the most ineffectual for us.

'Tis the Work of God to afford Help and Succour to Men, when they can't find Help, or have no Prospect of it in the Creatures ; and he often mightily evidences and displays his eternal Power and Godhead, by helping his People in such a Case :—Man's Extremity is, often his chosen and beloved Opportunity to display his Power and Goodness in the Relief and Help of his Creatures : — He can help without Means, or contrary to, or out of the ordinary Course of Nature, if he pleases ; and he has left on sacred Record Instances of his Power and Sovereignty in working in such sort for the Help and Salvation of the Children of Men :—Sometimes for a People in general,

ral, and so the Wicked have shared with the
 Righteous, in outward Deliverances, to con-
 vince and convert them, and lead them to
 God by Repentance (if it may be) as in the
 delivering the *Israelites* from the Fury and
 Power of the *Egyptians*, by dividing the
 Sea before them, and causing them to pass
 through on dry Ground, and by overwhel-
 ming and drowning their haughty and ma-
 licious Pursuers, &c.—And sometimes God
 has wrought in like miraculous Ways for
 the Deliverance of particular Persons, in
 their greatest Distresses ; but this has been
 usually for true and eminent Saints,—to
 give Testimony to the Truth of their Piety
 and Integrity, and of his gracious Approba-
 tion of it : — as, —for *Daniel* in the Lion's
 Den ; the Three Children in the Furnace ;
Peter, and the two other Apostles in Prison,
 and the like ---- But these miraculous Ways
 of God's helping Men in their Distresses
 were rare in former Days, and not to be
 expected in these : But he displays his Power
 and Goodness in affording effectual Help
 and Salvation to his People in their Distres-
 ses (and as it may be when all Prospect of
 human and mediate Help fails) in a more
 ordinary Way in our Times : And this very
 remar-

remarkably in many Cases ; as by bringing
 to them such Means as might not be thought
 of by them beforehand, and by crowning
 Means with Success beyond, or contrary to,
 their Expectation : As for Instance, for Per-
 sons in Sicknes he may, and many Times
 doth, cause weak Means to produce great
 Effects, when Health and Life are despaired
 of by themselves, and by all Friends and
 Physicians around them : They may be sup-
 ported also beyond all Expectation under
 the most trying Bereavements, by the Deaths
 of the dearest Friends ; or unthought-of
 Means may be suggested and blessed to re-
 lieve them in the most extreme Danger.----
 Have not any of us found God's Mercy
 nigh, and his Power mighty sometimes,
 when he has delivered us in such a fort ?----
 Again, as to a People, has not God delivered
 them from the Troubles of War, Captivity,
 and like Troubles, when all rational Pro-
 spect of Help, (and by ordinary Means have
 failed) by ordering out and favouring some
 new and uncommon Means and Instruments ?
 ---And so God likewise displays his Wisdom
 and Goodness, in repairing Breaches made
 by the Hand of his holy Providence upon
 his People in the Church and State ; when
 Men

Men (it may be) can see no one which they think will answer to stand in the Gap, God can send them one ; and if he pleases from afar off, or such as might not be thought of a little while before, and such an one as shall fill up the most important Station and Trust well,— who shall raise up the Foundation of many Generations ; and who shall be called, and eminently be, the Repairer of the Breach, and the Restorer of Paths to dwell in. These Truths are very plain,---- I need not take up more Time in their Proof.

BUT the Hour calls us to consider what Lessons of Counsel and Comfort they read to us all, and to the bereaved Families and Flock in this Place ; and more especially touching the fore Breach which the holy and righteous God has made upon us the last Week : And this I shall endeavour under two Heads only, viz. ---- of Instruction and Exhortation.

AND for the First, We see where we are to go for Help, for Comfort, and all needed Salvation in every Trouble ; and even when all human Help, at least all Prospect of Help by ordinary human Means, fails and flies from
from

from us, viz. to the great, almighty, all-wise and all-gracious God ; and this by a sincere, holy and evangelical Faith and Hope ;--- cleansing off, and putting away from us, all Sin, through the Blood of Christ, and by a cordial and Gospel Repentance of it, to God we must go ; and thus we must go to him in all our Straits and Troubles :---lo, this is our absolute Duty ; and this is our Interest too, and what we shall certainly find our account in, so far as we are real and hearty in it :--For God can do every Thing, and will do every Thing needed for those who sincerely seek and trust in him : His Words be true which tell us, " He is nigh to all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in Truth. --- *Abraham* his Friend, and the Father and Pattern of the Faithful, knew and felt this surely when he obeyed and trusted God in the Matter of offering up his Son *Isaac*, (*Gen. 22.*) and said (as ver. 8.) God will provide, &c. ---- *David* knew it too, when, disclaiming all Confidence in an Arm of Flesh, he rows himself on his God, and cries " Give us help from Trouble, for vain is the Help of Man : We must go and do so, when human Help and Refuge seems most to fail us : *This, this* is the effectual Way of our Safety and Happiness.

BUT

BUT this brings us to the Head of Exhortation :---Let us all firmly trust in God, and humbly wait for him at all Times, (the most dark, distressing and troublous) for needed Help, Support, Comfort and Deliverance ;---and let us do it when the Expectation and Prospect of Help in Way of the usual Means seems most to fail us.

AND let us do so, my Brethren, in the very dark and distressing Scene which is opened to us by the holy Providence of him who doth all Things well, in the taking away that dear Friend and Father of ours, the late skilful and faithful Pastor of the Church of God in this Place, by Death.

AND now let us enquire a little about what we have lost in *him*, in order to our seeing what special Need we have to repair to the God of all Grace and Comfort, for Support and Relief at this Day.

'Tis unsuitable, for various Reasons, that I should undertake to give a particular and exact Account of his Life and Ministry : But Duty and Gratitude (to God, and his Memory) calls me, I conceive, to say something

thing concerning what he was,---of his extraordinary Endowments,---and of the extraordinary Diligence and Integrity with which he appeared to improve them while he was with us. He was born in the North of *Scotland* (in the Year 1690, according to his own Account:)---Had a liberal Education there,---and the Honours of the University of *Edinburg*,---came over to *New-England* ('tis said) in the Year 1717 ;---and was ordained Pastor of the Church in this Place *March* 11th. 1721 :---which Office he discharged among you (Brethren) with great Industry and Fidelity more than forty Years ; but is now no longer suffered to continue by Reason of Death :---He was esteemed one of a penetrating and discerning Understanding,---of a peculiarly sagacious and enterprizing Genius, and of a very tenacious Memory, --- as well as furnished with embellishing Acquirements ; and more especially for his Acquaintance with the Affairs of History and State-Policy, it was thought by some that were likely to know, that few Gentlemen of his Opportunity could exceed him :---As also, for laying out the Oeconomy, and inspecting the Affairs of
of

of his Family, and necessary secular Concernments, with Dispatch and Prudence, and so as to consist with a diligent Application to the Duties of the Ministerial Office.---Where was the Man that could order and manage well so much Business in so little Time as he could ?---Touching his Doctrines, they were strictly of the Puritan Scheme, or to speak in the more usual Phrase, he was a real and steady, but very candid, *Calvinist* ; —In his common Conversation he was peculiarly free and pleasant, but not vain :—He was extraordinarily courteous and friendly to his Acquaintance, and to all Men so far as Opportunity occurred ; and that he was very specially so toward and among you, Brethren, his own People, how many of you are the grateful and ready Witnesses ? You know he became your Pastor when it was the Day of small Things with you ; and that then, and ever since, he manifested no small Love to you, or Concern for you : When did you find him unwilling to serve and promote your true Interest, whenever the Door of Opportunity opened ? Has he not often kindly ministered to your Bodies, in Distress, as well as to

your Souls? * And when was the Day, when was the Night, what was the Weather, what were the Storms, or what the Way, which hindred him from being quickly with you in your Distresses, when his Strength and Health allowed it? Yea, beyond it of late: Has he not borne too hard upon his (once) firm Constitution, in his Labours among you? And was he not willing every Way, as we may say, both to spend and be spent for you? — Surely you will own (many of you especially) that he has been a Father to you in civil Kindness, as well as in his ecclesiastical Ministry. His Heart has been with you, and he could, I believe, as sincerely as most, say with the Apostle, *That ye were in his Heart, to die and live with you.* † He has also been a Peacemaker, and Peace-seeker among you, remarkably so;—and moreover, —abroad in the Land, ---- and has been abundantly improved

* As he had under various Advantages, acquired a considerable Degree of Knowledge in the Art of Physick, he frequently administred to his People, as a Physician, in their Sickness, especially in the former Part of his Ministry, and charitably gave them both his Medicines and Advice.

† 2 Cor. 7. 3.

proved and blessed as a Healer of Difficulties and Divisions in various Parts of the Country : For which also God had given him an extraordinary Talent and Turn.

SUCH a Minister, and such a Friend, Brethren, you and we have lost ; for such was Mr. CAMPBELL : But we have lost him in Death ! Ah, he is gone, and we must see him no more ! And is it a small Loss ? I believe you do not, cannot, think so ; but own it great : Yet perhaps it may yet seem greater, -- you may have but begun to feel it. Surely I conceive God has made a wide Breach upon the Churches of this Vicinity, but more immediately upon this Church and Town. O Oxford, Oxford ! *What Thing shall I take to witness for thee ? What Thing shall I liken to thee ? --- Or what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort Thee ? for thy Breach is great like the Sea, who can heal thee ?*

BUT, Brethren, you do not mourn alone : His sorrowful Widow has lost a tender and prudent Husband ; — his Children a kind and dear Father ; — his Brethren in the Ministry, a loved, a valued, and a needed Friend,

Friend, and the younger ones a Father in *Israel*:—And he that now speaks can (perhaps) as feelingly mourn with you as any one that is not of his own Family or Town. But,—he is gone!—And our Eyes, which have so often seen him with Satisfaction, must now see him no more in this World: Death, cruel Death, has snatched him from us; and the greedy Grave, which never saith, it is enough, has swallowed him out of our Sight! — The Grave is now his House; and he has taken up his Bed in the Land of Darkness. This Meeting-House, and this Desk, knows him or receives him no more: Nor must he ever more warn or counsel you from this Pulpit; nor you hear from him the Things of Christ; and of your Souls Peace and Life by him: No more shall he pray with or for you:—His Work is done, he is gone; and as to his Flesh, he is returned to his Earth; but his Soul, we trust, is with the Lord, in Mansions of everlasting Light and Glory: There we believe he is reaping the Reward of his faithful Labours; and there feeds on the Truth, and tastes the Life and Blessedness of that Promise,

They

* *They that be wise shall shine as the Brightness of the Firmament, — they that turn many to Righteousness, as the Stars for ever and ever ;* while we are here mourning and feeling the Loss of him, crying out of our Breach, and groaning under the massy Burdens, both of Sins and Sorrows, and the various Evils of this mortal State.

I DWELL not on these melancholly Scenes to dismay or confound you, but would shew how specially we need the abundant Influences of the divine Presence, to heal, sanctify and comfort us, in such a Day as this.

AND O let us all be exhorted to go to God, the God of all Grace, by Faith in the Name and Merits of his dear Son, our great Mediator and Redeemer, for the Support, Comfort and Help we need, under all our Troubles, and under this cutting Bereavement : Tho' our Breach is indeed like the Sea, and Man cannot, yet God can heal us ; though mortal Friends die, yet God the Saviour lives, and is alive for evermore ; and this is enough, — enough for Faith to live upon ;

* Daniel 12. 3.

upon ; if his gracious Favour be ours, this is our all in all :—He is the Hope of *Israel*, and Saviour thereof in Time of Trouble ; and will be to all his faithful People, the Strength of their Hearts, and Portion forever.—Tho' now henceforth we have no more this wise, kind and faithful human Helper, Mr. *Campbell*, to go to, in such Difficulties as he has often help'd us in ; and tho' one such useful and faithful Man after another fails from among the Children of Men ; yet we have God as much as ever to go to, which is infinitely better :—To him let us all go then, and on him let us all rest and live, with a stronger Faith than ever :—To him let us thus commit all our Affairs, and thus cast all our Care upon him, and so he will care for us, and perfect what concerns us, for * *The Lord God is a Sun and Shield ; and will give Grace and Glory, and no good Thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

AND may you, my Brethren, be thankful to God who gave you such a Pastor as he has now taken from you, and that he continued him with you to a good old Age.
And

* Psalm 84. 11.

And may you remember, and in the Help of Grace, profitably improve, the many solemn, important and precious Counsels he has given you in this House, and in private ; for though he is gone, you are accountable for them : And may you very specially remember how much he desired, and sought to keep Peace among you, while he was with you ; and that therefore if you now indulge Contentions your Sins will be peculiarly aggravated.

AND may you in due Gratitude to the Dead, shew Kindness to the Living, to his Friends for his Sake ; and more especially to the sorrowful Widow, as Occasion may arise : He expected this of you, and he tho't reasonably ; and more, does not God expect it of you ? — And this is enough here.

AND now, May you all before God and toward all Men, henceforth more than ever live as becomes the Gospel of Christ ; and so God will be with you : And may he succeed all his own Means of Grace to you ; and appear in his Glory to build up his *Zion* among you ; and (in his own Time)

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set

† *set a Man over you, who may go out before you, and who may come in before you ; and, that the Congregation of the Lord be not as Sheep without a Shepherd :* And so may he be the Repairer of the Breach, &c.

AND may the same God of everlasting Mercies, in a saving Sort, comfort and support the bereaved Widow and Fatherless ! And cause all Afflictions to yield the peaceable Fruits of Righteousness to them ! May he be more than ever their gracious Guide and Director, now so kind and skilful an earthly Guide is taken from them ! May they, and we, all follow him wherein he followed Christ ! And may a double Portion of the Spirit of Wisdom and Grace rest on that Son, * who has by his Father's Care and Kindness, been favoured with the Advantages of a liberal Education ; and who may in due Time, if God will, (according to the earnest Desire and Hope of his departed Father) devote himself to the Service of God, in the Gospel of his Son ! And may *he* be a rich Blessing to the Church of God in his Day ! — And may the House of our departed

† Number 27. 16, 17. fore-quoted.

* His youngest Son ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, A. B.

departed Friend be blessed forever, as the Habitation of the Just; and above all, with the Blessings of the lasting Hills, and the Good-will of him that dwelt in the *Bush*!

FINALLY, May we all attentively hear the Call, the loud Call of Heaven to us, in this Death; and improve it (thro' Grace) to the exciting in us, a due and profitable Remembrance of our own Mortality, and that we are hastening into a boundless Eternity! *Oh that we were wise, that we understood this, that we might consider our latter End!* And, Oh let us all give all Diligence, that we may be found always watching and praying, and applying ourselves in the Grace of Christ, closely and faithfully to the Duties of our several Stations! — Let us work while it is Day; because the Night cometh wherein no Man can work: — Thus, and thus only, can we hope to be found of our Judge in Peace at his Coming; when every wicked and slothful Servant must be cast into outward Darknes, &c. We know that we shall die, and soon; but we know not how soon; and can we say, we shall

not die suddenly ? Let us therefore make it our great Concern to be ever actually ready therefor ; otherwise, our Lord may come in a Day when we look not for him, and at an Hour of which we are not aware ! Are we ready ? Do we daily seek and take care, and humbly hope, that whenever our Master calls, he may find us closely about his Work ?—*Blessed are those Servants which their Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.* Lo these God and the Saviour shall receive to himself at his Coming ; — *and God shall wipe away all Tears from their Eyes : And there shall be no more Death, nor Sorrow, nor Crying ; neither any more Pain :—In his Presence is Fulness of Joy ; at his Right-Hand are Pleasures forevermore.*

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T H E E N D.

From the BOSTON News-Letter. No. 2971.

O X F O R D, May 28. 1761.

ON the 25th Instant died here the Rev. Mr. *John Campbell*, in the 71st Year of his Age, a Gentleman greatly beloved and esteemed. He was born in the North of *Scotland*, educated at *Edinburgh*, where he had the Benefit and Honours of that University. He came over to *New-England* Anno 1717, was ordained Pastor of the Church here Anno 1721, where with great Wisdom and Fidelity he continued to execute the several Parts of his Office for more than 40 Years. In his Preaching he was strictly Orthodox, much improved in Ecclesiastical Councils, and happy in the Peace and Harmony of the Church here. In his last Sickness he sustained the Prospect of his approaching Death with great Serenity, as knowing Him in whom he had believed. His Remains were decently interred Yesterday; the Funeral was attended not only by this Town, but by great Numbers from the adjacent Towns, formed an unusually long and orderly Procession. He hath left a sorrowful Widow, four Sons, and two Daughters. His Death is a general Loss; but especially so to this Town, who well may be supposed to tremble when such a Pillar fell. *Zech. 1. 5. Your Fathers, where are they? and the Prophets, do they live forever?*

Mr. J. B. [illegible]

O. J. [illegible]

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